

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 11, 12, and 16-36 without prejudice and revise the remaining claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for making a composite sports racquet frame comprising the steps, or their equivalents, of:
  - providing a mold having first and second mold plates which, when joined, define a mold cavity in the shape of a sports racquet;
  - placing a first tube of a material suitable for forming a racquet frame in said first mold plate;
  - placing a second tube of a material suitable for forming a racquet in said second mold plate;
  - providing a plurality of pin plates, wherein each pin plate includes a body portion and a plurality of pins which extend from said body portion in a direction parallel to one another, and which include distal ends spaced away from said body portion;
  - securing a said plurality of pins pin plates to said first mold plate so that said pins cross on top of said first tube, such that said pins lie at least substantially in a single plane, such that the pins of each pin plate extend at an angle different from the pins of the adjacent pin plates, and such that each of said distal ends is received in a groove in said first mold plate;
  - coupling an air source to each of the tubes;

securing said mold plates to one another so that said first and second tubes contact said pins and such that said tubes contact one another at least in regions to either side of said pins;

heating said mold while pressurizing said tubes to form a racquet frame in which said tubes are bonded to one another at least in said regions adjacent said pins;

removing said frame from said mold plates; and

removing said pins from said frame, whereby said pins form string holes in said frame.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said mold cavity defines a racquet head portion, and wherein said tubes, when in said mold alternately contact one another and a pin along the entire head portion of the mold cavity.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said tubes have ends forming a handle portion, and wherein, when said frame is molded, said ends are kept separated from one another so that, after said frame is removed from said mold plates, said tubes, in the handle portion of said frame, have gaps between one another.

4. (cancelled).

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein said ~~pin plates~~ body portions have ~~an inner~~ a surface, from which said pins project, which forms part of the mold cavity.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said tubes are made of a composite material having a component which flows when heated such that, during molding, the tubes form an integral common wall.

7. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said tubes are made of an uncured, fiber-reinforced resin.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein at least some of the pin plates are positioned to the outer side of the head portion, wherein the pins of said at least some pin plates are joined to said ~~pin plates~~ body portions by a rounded base, thereby to form string holes having rounded openings along the outside of the frame.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein all of the pin plates forming string holes between said first and second tubes are positioned to the outside of said head portion.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said mold plates include a sunken ledge to the outside of said first and second tubes, wherein the pin plates forming string holes between said first and second tubes are secured in said sunken ledge.

11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said pins have a first end adjacent to the outside of the frame and a second end adjacent to the inside

of the frame, and wherein said pins have a shoulder at said first end in order to produce a radius at the inlet to the string holes.

14. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein said pins have a shoulder at their second end, such that both ends of the string holes are radiused, and wherein one of the two shoulders on each pin is removable.

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein each pin comprises first and second coaxial pin portions, wherein said first pin portions are secured to a ~~plurality of pin plates~~ said body portions, wherein ~~the pin plates~~ said body portions associated with pins forming string holes between said first and second tubes ~~said first pin portions~~ are positioned on the outside of the frame, and wherein ~~the pin plates associated with~~ said second pin portions are secured to a plurality of second body portions positioned on the inside of the frame.

16. (cancelled).

17. (cancelled).

18. (cancelled).

19. (cancelled).

20. (cancelled).

21 (cancelled).

22. (cancelled).

23. (cancelled).

24. (cancelled).

25. (cancelled).

26. (cancelled).

27. (cancelled).

28. (cancelled).

29. (cancelled).

30. (cancelled).

31. (cancelled).

32. (cancelled).

33. (cancelled).

34. (cancelled).

35. (cancelled).

36. (cancelled).

37. (new) A method according to claim 2, wherein said head portion includes a tip portion, a pair of opposed side portions, a pair of upper corner portions separating said tip portion and said side portions, a throat bridge portion, and a pair of lower corners separating said side portions from said throat bridge portion, and wherein said pin plates consist of a first pin plate for forming string holes in the tip portion, a second pin plate for forming string holes in said throat bridge portion, a first pair of pin plates for forming string holes in said side portions, a second pair of pin plates for forming string holes in said upper corner portions, and at least one pair of third pin plates for forming string holes in said lower corner portions, and further

comprising the steps of, prior to molding, placing a throat bridge member in the throat bridge portion of each mold plate, and securing said second pin plate to one of said mold plates such that the pins of said second pin plate cross said throat bridge member.

38. (new). A method according to claim 37, wherein two pairs of pin plates are used to form the string holes in said lower corner portions.

39. (new) A method according to claim 37, wherein the racquet frame has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the pins in said first pair of pin plates extend perpendicular to said axis.

40. (new) A method according to claim 39, wherein the pins in said first and second pin plates extend parallel to said axis.

41. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the racquet frame has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the pins in said first pair of pin plates extend perpendicular axis.

42. (new) A method according to claim 41, wherein the pins in said first and second pin plates extend parallel to said axis